

BC First Nations

**Climate Strategy
and Action Plan
DRAFT SUMMARY
(Sept 2021)**

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Climate change is escalating in magnitude and frequency. Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories are disproportionately affected by climate change more than any other group in Canada. In British Columbia, the changing climate impacts the lands, waters, natural habitats, and ecosystems that sustain us. First Nations' traditional and sacred resources are at risk of destruction and/or extinction. Their communities, ancestral lands and cultural identity depend on immediate climate action.

Provincial and federal climate responses have fallen short of adequately engaging and co-developing appropriate climate actions with First Nations in BC. Climate actions are not and cannot be divorced from broader and higher priority issues of First Nations cultural survival, self-determination, self-governance, decolonization, and place-based economy autonomy. In 2019 and 2021, First Nations leadership in BC passed resolutions calling for the development of a *BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan* (the “Strategy”) (UBCIC Resolution No. 2019-02; BCAFN Resolution No. 04/2019, and FNS Resolution No. 0221.15). The First Nation Leadership Council (“FNLC”) has been mandated to develop the Strategy in collaboration with First Nations in BC to:

- Uphold Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.
- Work to reduce GHG emissions to keep global warming below 1.5°C and a net-zero emission by 2050, including stopping the GHG emitting projects and infrastructure expansion.
- Support the development of renewable energy and alternative energy economies.
- Strengthen First Nation participation in a just transition to a green economy.

The *BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan* serves to amplify First Nation voices as the first peoples and original caretakers of these lands, to communicate priorities in climate planning, and to work collaboratively to ensure the protection and stability of the Earth for generations to come. The Strategy intends to respond to the urgency posed by climate change to adapt to the avoidable impacts from the global warming and help reducing human-produced GHG. The Strategy help guide climate responses while also communicating to partners that climate action is only possible when co-created with First Nations in ways that protect and strengthen Title, Rights and Treaty Rights and when Indigenous knowledge, laws, and legal processes are thoroughly respected and incorporated in all aspects of climate planning and action. The Strategy intends to be aligned with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the TRC's *Calls to Action* and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the Calls for Justice.

The Strategy is province-wide in scope and is designed to be a living and flexible document for use and implementation in different contexts relating to climate change and used by different actors and audiences. The Strategy respects the diversity of First Nations and the right to self-determination of each community, while also working to respond to priorities and needs of First Nations as a collective body, such as affirming inherent and constitutional rights in the climate context and building capacity within communities broadly. The Strategy aims to be a document where First Nation communities can use as a foundation to guide the development of their own climate responses and initiatives based on their unique needs, priorities, and self-determined processes.

STRATEGY CONTENT

Vision

We practice sustainable living to provide for the people and the Earth. We hunt, harvest, and use our language so our knowledge is not lost. Through a holistic approach, we understand our relationship with the lands, waters, and all beings.
- Interior Region (FNLC Youth Engagement Session)

We, the first peoples of the lands, assert our inherent Title, Rights, and jurisdiction to lead the response to the climate crisis. We exercise our knowledge, laws, and legal processes in our self-determined ways to care for the Earth and ensure health and stability

We have our land back. We have re-established access and management of our lands and resources. We are able to respond to climate change through a First Nations led and inclusive approach, reclamation work and long-term planning and investing in opportunities for clean energy.
- Northern Region (FNLC Youth Engagement Session)

We, First Nations' youth, are the stewards of our own lands, the lands we have cared for since time immemorial. We are advocates for education, sustainable production and economies, and the care and protection of the Earth.
- Coastal Region (FNLC Youth Engagement Session)

Guiding Principles

1. Self-Determination and Self-Government

Respect and recognize the assertion of First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over their traditional territories and their right to self-determination and self-government in climate action.

We are the first peoples of the land. Before settler arrival, we lived on the land with our individual laws, territories and thriving economies and societies. We have effectively protected and cared for the land, water, air, and our traditional resources. Asserting our inherent Title, jurisdiction over our territories and the rights to self-determination and self-government must be priorities in any climate discussion, including climate legislation, policies, and actions. The Crown and other relevant entities must recognize and respect our Title, Rights and Treaty Rights, both hereditary and elected leadership systems and must fully implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

2. Culture and Tradition

Protect and share First Nation culture, values, and identity, including the knowledge, language and legal orders of each individual Nation, as an essential element of adapting to the climate crisis.

Historical and ongoing colonial practices impact our ability to share and protect our culture, values, and identity, including knowledge, language, and laws specific to each individual Nation. Climate change further threatens our identity. Protecting and facilitating intergenerational sharing of these core elements is essential to prepare future leaders to thrive in a climate crisis. Together, we all must respectfully and adequately acknowledge the importance of including Indigenous cultural and ecological knowledge to combat climate change. The strength of this knowledge must be recognized and implemented alongside scientific understanding in developing climate strategies and actions.

3. Guardianship and Stewardship

Exercise reciprocity, restoration, and collaboration with the lands, waters and air in maintaining ecosystem health and stability for generations to come.

We have a collective responsibility to recognize the climate emergency with an urgency to act immediately and in the long term to maintain the integrity and functionality of the environment. This includes helping to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions at all levels, including those related to economic development in our traditional territories. When making decisions, it is vital to consider reciprocity, restoration, cooperation, and collaboration with the Earth to ensure ecosystem health and stability for generations to come. Guardianship and stewardship must be conducted through a holistic and preventive approach with our individual legal orders and inherent responsibilities to the lands, waters, and air.

4. Collaboration and Partnership

Collaborate and develop true partnerships between First Nations in BC and governments, the private sector, other Indigenous Peoples, and our society as a whole to effectively address the climate emergency.

Climate change is an urgent threat that transcends jurisdictional boundaries, making collaboration and partnership essential. There must be collaboration and true partnerships between First Nations in BC and governments, corporations, and Indigenous Peoples. As inherent Title and Right holders, entities must come to the table ready to recognize our jurisdiction and authority to use, manage and care for our territories and lead climate initiatives and responses. This involves First Nations consistently practicing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in climate response and project development. Past and present harms of colonization must be acknowledged and addressed as an essential component of developing accountable relations for climate action. An intersectional lens that considers the significant roles, experiences and vulnerabilities of First Nations Elders, youth, women, and members of the 2SLGBQQIA+ community must be adopted in the face of climate change. Collaboration and partnership between communities, Nations and other entities must be equitable and strengthen the resiliency of all members.

5. Empowerment, Leadership and Self-Sufficiency

Build capacity, resiliency and self-sufficiency to empower First Nation communities and future generations in responding to climate impacts.

Despite the impacts from the legacies of colonization and ongoing colonial practices, we are climate leaders who have historically and effectively responded to climate change. However, climate change which will be stronger and more frequent, will continue to impact our communities, our individual identity, and our traditional resources more than any other group in Canada. Therefore, we must strengthen our capacity, build climate resiliency, and empower future generations to effectively respond to the climate crisis. This includes becoming self-sufficient and self-governing, meeting our capacity and food security needs, and ensuring our rightful place in a fair and clean economy.

Key Priorities



**PRIORITY #1: INHERENT
TITLE AND RIGHTS**



**PRIORITY #2: CAPACITY
AND LEADERSHIP**



**PRIORITY #3: LAND AND
WATER PROTECTION
AND SUSTAINABILITY**



**PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE
RESPONSE AND
PREPAREDNESS**

Together, these interrelated priorities form a comprehensive plan to meet climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience-building needs based on First Nation worldviews and goals across the province. Within each priority are listed objectives and actions organized by theme, as outlined in more detail in the attached "**BCFNCSAP Framework Chart**". The priorities are summarized as follows:



PRIORITY #1: INHERENT TITLE AND RIGHTS

This priority is focused on the recognition and protection of First Nations' Title, Rights and Treaty Rights in the climate context. This involves ensuring that First Nations in BC have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government in the climate context, including to land, water, and resource management, and to develop, maintain and use their own laws, legal processes, language, and knowledge in climate action. Themes within this priority include:

1. The UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts

Actions focus on aligning climate-related legislation and policies with the UN Declaration, ensuring clear paths to implement the UN Declaration in climate planning, and implementing consent-based climate decision-making in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

2. Self-determination and Self-Government

Actions focus on strengthening the recognition and implementation of First Nations inherent rights of jurisdiction and self-determination through a government-to-government relationship, increasing representation of First Nation communities at climate-related discussion tables, and supporting First Nations in developing and implementing their own laws, legal processes, and institutions to guide land, water, and resource management within their territories.

3. Indigenous Knowledge and Languages

Actions focus on supporting the preservation and use of Indigenous knowledge and language in climate action broadly, increasing representation of Elders and/or knowledge holders in

climate discussions, and strengthening opportunities to connect Elders and/or knowledge holders with First Nations' youth for climate action collaboration.

4. Crown Engagement and Consultation

Actions focus on reforming current state-led First Nation engagement and consultation frameworks to ensure meaningful, inclusive, and distinctions-based approach to engagement in climate response. The actions also serve to address concerns raised by First Nations on the current government approach, such as a lack of transparency, respect of Indigenous jurisdiction, co-developed responses, and poor communications within government ministries.

5. Public Knowledge

Actions focus on strengthening public knowledge and awareness on the impacts and threats of climate change on First Nation communities in BC, as well as the unique and essential world-recognized role of Indigenous people in addressing the climate crisis. Actions involve improving curriculum at all levels of education within the province and educating the public on First Nations' Title, Rights and Treaty Rights, cumulative impacts of climate change and colonization (both past and present) on First Nation communities, and the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in climate-related decision-making,



PRIORITY #2: CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

This priority is focused on ensuring First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively response to the climate crisis both now and in the future. This involves addressing and overcoming the capacity barrier many communities have and continue to face in mitigating and adapting to climate change and developing climate response initiatives. Themes within this priority include:

1. Education and Training

Actions focus on strengthening knowledge and awareness within First Nation communities about climate change impacts, sources and responses, strengthening climate-related training and skills development opportunities within communities, and supporting First Nations in fulfilling climate-related positions within their territories.

2. Long Term Funding

Actions focus on ensuring First Nations in BC obtain the long-term financial resources needed to build climate capacity and develop their own self-determined climate responses. This involves reviewing and reforming the current funding framework at the provincial and federal levels and actions include the immediate establishment of a BC First Nations Climate Fund to support First Nations autonomy in their climate action.

3. Data Governance

Actions focus on strengthening First Nations data governance and supporting communities in creating, managing, and accessing climate data and information to inform decision-making and climate response.

4. Gender Equity, Justice, and Inclusion

Actions focus on implementing a distinctions-based approach and an intersectional lens to climate planning and response, recognizing and accounting for different lived experiences between First Nation communities and individuals. Actions are also centred on implementing the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls so that First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people enjoy equal protection against all forms of discrimination in climate planning and response.

5. Commitment to Youth

Actions focus on supporting First Nations' youth involvement and leadership in climate planning and response at all levels, i.e., supporting the development of community-led programs specific for youth to engage in land-based learning, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and climate advocacy broadly.



PRIORITY #3: LAND AND WATER PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

This priority is focused on working in collaboration with others to strengthen the health and stability of the land and waters to ensure resiliency to climate impacts now and for future generations to come. This priority aims to best respond to both climate impacts and their sources such as greenhouse gas emitting projects. Themes within the priority include:

1. Restoration and Conservation

Actions focus on restoring the lands and waters, including native plants and medicines, disturbed due to climate change and/or urban and industrial development. This involves establishing policies enforcing clean up and remediation for disturbed sites, sustainable and selective harvesting of second and third growth forests and supporting sustainable old-growth cultural management. These actions also work to strengthen conservation efforts to preserve and protect ecosystems and wildlife through the development of First Nation-led conservation plans and First Nations Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) across the province.

2. Waters and Oceans

Actions focus on respect and recognition of First Nations' water governance and authority to manage traditional water sources, restoration of natural water ecosystems, and strengthened water management policies, practices, and strategies such as the First Nations Water Rights Strategy and the BC Watershed Security Strategy.

3. Food Security and Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems

Actions focus on strengthening and supporting sustainable and low carbon food and seafood security for First Nations in BC in line with traditional food systems. In doing so, the actions also strive to reduce poverty and ensure self-sufficiency and resiliency to climate impacts. This includes developing community-led food and food sovereignty systems, a BC Wild Pacific Salmon Strategy, local food waste management mechanisms, and collaborating and consulting with Elders and/or knowledge holders to determine effective and appropriate approaches.

4. Urban and Industrial Development Processes

Actions aim to help safeguard the lands and waters from urban and industrial development projects and ensure that these projects are environmentally sustainable. In doing so, the actions also strive to ensure respect and recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction as part of project approvals and associated decision-making in, for instance, environmental assessment processes and certification. The actions are also aligned and work to implement the Calls for Extractive and Development Industries from the Final Report of the MMIWG.

5. Resource Management

Actions focus on supporting First Nations in developing and maintaining laws, policies, and guidelines for land, water, and resource management within and between their territories. This includes supporting the development and implementation of community-led land use and resource management plans, First Nation-led compliance, and enforcement systems (i.e., Guardian Watchmen), implementing traditional alternatives to contemporary resource management systems, and exploring the development of First Nations licensing and tenure systems.

6. Collective Stewardship

Actions focus on strengthening collaboration and partnerships within and between First Nation communities, organizations, and others to collectively care for the Earth while also building climate leadership and resiliency. This involves establishing regional networks of climate coordinators, increasing opportunities to exchange knowledge and resources, and



PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

This priority is focused on working to keep global warming below 1.5°C while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of First Nation-led climate initiatives grounded in community-specific priorities. Themes within this priority include:

1. Green Infrastructure and Transportation

Actions focus on assessing community-specific needs and establishing appropriate infrastructure within communities to protect ecosystem health, reduce GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, and adapt to current and projected climate impacts. This includes ensuring reliable and low-carbon and active transportation within and between communities.

2. Housing and Buildings

Actions focus on establishing and/or maintaining culturally appropriate, energy-efficient, and resilient housing and buildings within First Nation communities and addressing housing insecurity for First Nations. This involves supporting First Nations in developing their own housing strategies and plans, supporting capacity to build and manage homes and buildings, increasing support for those living off-grid with sustainable and affordable clean energy options, and exploring the development of a BC First Nations Building Code.

3. Emergency Response

Actions focus on effectively responding to climate-related emergency and associated risk and impacts on First Nation communities through strengthened collaboration with First Nations in BC, First Nation-led emergency management and preparedness mechanisms, etc. In doing

so, the actions emphasise supporting actions undertaken by the FNLC and the First Nations Emergency Services Society to implement the Tripartite Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and to support the development of a BC First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction.

4. Climate Plans, Monitoring and Risk Assessments

Actions focus on supporting First Nations in developing and implementing their own climate strategies and action plans in their own self-determined ways, including risk assessments and the assessment of cumulative impacts from climate change, land-use changes, pollution and water extraction, as well as the implementation of First Nation-led monitoring and data collection frameworks to establish robust baseline data.

5. GHG Emissions Reduction

Actions focus on meeting and exceeding provincial and federal climate targets to align with the IPCC's recommendations to limit global warming to 1.5oC. In doing so, the actions strive to ensure adequate support for First Nations to use nature-based solutions to reduce and offset GHG emissions within their territories while also working in collaboration and partnership with other entities to reduce GHG emissions on a global scale.

6. Clean Energy Development

Actions focus on support First Nations participation and ownership in the generation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy while also facilitating First Nations energy independence and First Nation-led clean energy projects. This involves reviewing and reforming current state policies and programs to ensure accessibility and equitable opportunities for First Nations, exploring alternatives to diesel, oil and gas, diversifying energy sources within communities, investing in off-grid clean energy sources, and restoring the ability for First Nations to generate revenue from selling electricity through Independent Power Agreements and/or other alternatives.

7. Community Health and Wellness

Actions focus on assessing impacts of climate change on First Nations' health and wellness and developing appropriate responses to ensure long-term resiliency. As an immediate action, this involves ensuring that all First Nations have long-term and reliable access to safe drinking water.

8. Just and Green Economy

Actions focus on strengthening First Nations economic independence, recognizing, and implementing the "economic component" of Title and facilitating equitable resource revenue sharing with First Nation communities. The actions also focus on ensuring First Nations are informed of and included in opportunities arising from the transition to a low carbon economy and supporting communities in exploring and developing their own economic development projects in a sustainable way.

IMPLEMENTATION

The *BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan* is designed to be a living and flexible document for use and implementation in different contexts relating to climate change and used by different actors and audiences. Implementation may stem from the provincial and federal governments, institutions, organizations, corporations, First Nation communities, and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Implementation may also be done on an individual or collective basis at the community, provincial, federal

and/or international levels. The Strategy provides an opportunity to begin a new path where First Nations in BC are treated as true partners in climate planning and response.

Further work and discussion are required in order to thoroughly implement the Strategy at different levels and in different climate-related contexts. There is no specific and individual entity responsible for implementation of the Strategy. Rather, we each have a role to play. This includes the provincial and federal governments, corporations, organizations, institutions, First Nations in BC, Indigenous Peoples, and society. Collaboration and the development of meaningful and true partnerships in climate action between us will be essential. To begin the implementation process, the following actions are recommended:

- The FNLC will continue to engage with First Nations in BC to discuss implementation of the Strategy. This includes holding an all-Chief meeting to develop an implementation plan for the Strategy, highlighting relevant implementation partnerships, specific deliverables and creating a work plan.
- First Nations, with the support of the FNLC, to present the Strategy to the provincial and federal governments and other relevant partners to communicate key climate priorities for First Nations in BC.
- First Nations, with the support of the FNLC, to adapt the Strategy based on their needs and priorities to develop their own individual climate strategies and action plans to respond to the climate crisis in their own self-determined ways.
- The provincial and federal governments to work to communicate, share, and support the implementation of the Strategy within all its ministries.
- The provincial and federal governments to provide ongoing support to First Nations in BC to develop their own community-led implementation processes for the Strategy.

BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan			
Vision			
We, the first peoples of the lands, assert out inherent Title, Rights and jurisdiction to lead the response to the climate crisis. We exercise our knowledge, laws and legal processes in our self-determined way to care for the Earth and ensure health and stability for generations to come.			
Guiding Principles			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Self-Determination and Self-GovernmentCulture and TraditionGuardianship and StewardshipCollaboration and PartnershipEmpowerment, Leadership and Self-Sufficiency			
Priorities			
Inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights	Capacity and Leadership	Land and Water Protection and Sustainability	Climate Response and Preparedness
Goals			
The Inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights of First Nations in BC are recognized and affirmed in climate response.	First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.	The health and stability of the land and waters, including resources, non-human beings and habitats are resilient to climate impacts now and for future generations to come.	First Nations in BC work to keep global warming below 1.5oC while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community specific priorities.
Themes/Objectives (T: theme, O: Objective)			
Theme 1.1: The UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts Objective 1.1.1: Prioritize the implementation of the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> , BC’s <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> and the federal <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> (collectively, the “UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts”) at all levels of climate response. Objective 1.1.2: Ensure all climate related legislation, policies, and mechanisms of implementation are aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.	Theme 2.1: Education and Training Objective 2.1.1: Strengthen knowledge and awareness within First Nation communities relating to climate change, including climate impacts, sources, and mitigation and adaptation response. Objective 2.1.2: Strengthen climate related training and skills development for First Nations both on and off reserve to participate in opportunities arising from the transition to a low-carbon society, while also reducing reliance on high-priced consultants. Objective 2.1.3: Develop opportunities for First Nations to hold culturally appropriate and climate related certifications and credentials. Objective 2.1.4: Effectively establish and fulfil climate related positions and advocacy roles within First Nation communities.	Theme 3.1: Restoration and Conservation Objective 3.1.1: Restore the lands and waters, including native plants and medicines, disturbed as a result of climate change and/or urban and industrial development. Objective 3.1.2: Strengthen conservation efforts in order to preserve and protect ecosystems and wildlife while also adapting to climate impacts. Objective 3.1.3 Recognize the crucial and unique role of First Nations in protecting, maintaining and managing the environment, including ecosystem functions and biodiversity.	Theme 4.1: Green Infrastructure and Transportation Objective 4.1.1: Establish appropriate infrastructure within First Nation communities to protect community and ecosystem health, reduce GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, and adapt to current and projected climate impacts. Objective 4.1.2: Ensure reliable and affordable low-carbon and active transportation within and between communities for First Nations. Objective 4.1.3: Support First Nations in reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
Theme 1.2: Self-Determination and Self-Government	Theme 2.2: Long-Term Funding	Theme 3.2: Waters and Oceans	Theme 4.2: Housing and Buildings

Objective 1.2.1: Strengthen recognition and implementation of First Nations jurisdiction in climate planning and response and the inherent right to self-determine their own climate processes and responses.

Objective 1.2.2: Develop processes with transformed decision-making where First Nation governments are recognized and engaged with as governments in climate planning and response.

Objective 1.2.3: Revitalize and implement traditional laws and legal orders and processes within First Nations communities to guide climate change response.

Objective 1.2.4: Respect and support First Nations in developing, maintaining and implementing their own institutions, laws, governing bodies, and political, economic and social structures related to climate change.

Theme 1.3: Traditional Knowledge and Languages

Objective 1.3.1: Support the preservation and use of traditional knowledge and language within First Nation communities in BC as the foundation for building resilience and adapting to the climate crisis.

Objective 1.3.2: Connect traditional knowledge holders with First Nations youth and create opportunities for climate action collaboration.

Objective 2.2.1: Ensure First Nation communities obtain the financial resources needed to build climate capacity and develop their own self-determined climate responses.

Objective 2.2.2: Improve both provincial and federal funding frameworks and programs to reflect First Nation priorities on climate change.

Objective 2.2.3: Ensure adequate government support for First Nations with their applications for climate related funding.

Theme 2.3: Data Governance

Objective 2.3.1: Strengthen First Nation data governance and support First Nations in creating, managing and accessing climate data and information to inform decision-making and climate response.

Objective 2.3.2: Ensure First Nation communities can effectively assess climate data and information held by other governments, institutions and/or organizations.

Objective 2.3.3: Engage in respectful and reciprocal generation and sharing of climate data and information with First Nations.

Theme 2.4: Gender Equity and Inclusion

Objective 2.4.1: Implement the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the Calls for Justice in climate action.

Objective 2.4.2: Recognize the impacts of colonization on First Nations' women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and strengthen recognition and respect of their right to culture, health, security and justice in climate planning.

Objective 2.4.3: Remove barriers, such as sexual and gender norms grounded on colonial ideals, experienced by First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples throughout climate action.

Theme 2.5: Commitment to Youth

Objective 3.2.1: Ensure respect and recognition of First Nation water governance and authority to manage traditional water sources.

Objective 3.2.2: Restore natural water ecosystems (marine ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems) and enhance water management policies and practices to safeguard water quality and quantity now and in the future.

Theme 3.3: Food Security and Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems

Objective 3.3.1: Strengthen food and seafood security for First Nations through the recognition and support of traditional food systems which are also sustainable and low carbon.

Objective 3.3.2: Support First Nations in creating and enhancing mechanisms to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change on traditional food and seafood sources.

Objective 3.3.3: Reduce poverty through effective and innovative food security initiatives.

Objective 3.3.4: Support innovative solutions to secure food self-sufficiency for First Nation communities, especially those in colder climates with short outdoor growing seasons

Theme 3.4: Urban and Industrial Development Processes

Objective 3.4.1: Support the development of practices and transformed decision-making which recognizes and respects First Nations jurisdiction throughout urban and industrial development processes.

Objective 3.4.2: Recognize and respect First Nations jurisdiction as part of urban and industrial project approval and associated decision-making in environmental assessment processes and certification.

Objective 3.4.3: Implement a consent-based approach in line with the minimum standard of FPIC.

Objective 3.4.4: Strengthen collaboration in true partnership between proponents and First Nations communities for climate initiatives, proposed development, and resource management.

Theme 3.5: Resource Management

Objective 4.2.1: Ensure that housing and buildings within First Nation communities are culturally appropriate, energy efficient, and resilient to climate change.

Objective 4.2.2: Address the systemic inequity of housing security for First Nations both on and off reserve as a component of building resiliency and adaptation to climate change.

Objective 4.2.3: Strengthen provincial and federal government funding opportunities and incentives for First Nations both on and off reserve in the housing context.

Theme 4.3: Emergency Response

Objective 4.3.1: Effectively respond to climate related emergencies and associated risks and impacts on First Nation communities broadly.

Objective 4.3.2: Strengthen First Nation-led emergency management and preparedness, including risk reduction, to effectively respond to climate related disasters and emergencies.

Objective 4.3.3: Ensure each individual and distinct First Nation community is prepared and empowered to respond to climate related impacts, risks and emergencies.

Objective 4.3.4: Integrate emergency management planning into climate change response by merging disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation actions at the provincial, federal and community levels.

Theme 4.4: Climate Plans, Monitoring and Risk Assessments

Objective 4.4.1: Ensure First Nation communities are equipped and informed through the development of their own climate strategies and action plans.

Objective 4.4.2: Recognize First Nation authority to conduct climate related assessments and monitoring work in their own self-determined ways to inform climate response and planning

Theme 1.5: Public Knowledge

Theme 4.5: GHG Emissions Reduction

Objective 1.5.1: Enhance public knowledge and understanding of the societal, cultural and economic consequences of climate change impacts on First Nations.

Objective 1.5.2: Increase public understanding of the role of colonization and its laws such as the *Indian Act* in limiting and restricting First Nation ability to respond to climate change.

Objective 2.5.1: Increase opportunities for First Nations youth to take on climate advocacy and leadership positions both within and outside of their communities.

Objective 2.5.2: Create inclusive and culturally appropriate spaces for First Nations youth, including 2SLGBQIA+ youth, to participate in climate discussions and response and support the implementation of any outcomes.

Objective 3.5.1: Support First Nations in developing and maintaining laws, policies, and guidelines for land, water and resource management to use within and between their territories.

Objective 3.5.2: Support First Nations compliance and enforcement systems to promote respect for and compliance with their laws, policies, plans and guidelines.

Objective 3.5.3: Increase communications between the provincial and federal governments and First Nation communities in state-led resource management processes and decision-making.

Theme 3.6: Collective Stewardship

Objective 3.6.1: Strengthen collaboration, partnership and information sharing within and between First Nation communities, organizations and potential partners to collectively care for the Earth and build climate leadership and resiliency.

Objective 4.5.1: Meet and exceed provincial and federal climate targets to align with the IPCC’s recommendation to limit global warming to 1.5oC.

Objective 4.5.2: Support First Nations to use nature-based solutions that align with their own self-determined priorities and values to help reduce GHG emissions in their territories.

Objective 4.5.3: Strengthen collaboration and partnerships between First Nations, governments, corporations, institutions, and organizations to reduce global GHG emissions and carbon pollution.

Theme 4.6: Clean Energy Development

Objective 4.6.1: Support First Nations participation and ownership in the generation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy, including through collaboration and partnerships between First Nations, governments, industry, institutions and organizations.

Objective 4.6.2: Facilitate First Nation energy independence, including having energy security, while building sustainable economies in First Nations communities.

Objective 4.6.3: Reduce energy poverty in First Nations where there is limited access to affordable and consistent energy sources.

Theme 4.7: Community Health and Wellness

Objective 4.7.1: Understand the impacts of climate change on First Nation health and wellness and develop appropriate responses to ensure long-term First Nation community health and wellness to facilitate resiliency in the face of climate change.

Theme 4.8: Just and Green Economy

Objective 4.8.1: Strengthen First Nation economic independence through the support and recognition of First Nation-led sustainable and low carbon economic development initiatives.

Objective 4.8.2: Ensure First Nations are included at all levels in opportunities arising from the transition to a low carbon economy.

Objective 4.8.3: Ensure recognition and implementation of the “economic component” of First Nations’ Title and facilitate equitable resource revenue sharing with First Nation communities.

ACTIONS

Note: Specific actions are listed under each of the above-mentioned themes within the document itself.

PRIORITY #1: INHERENT TITLE, RIGHTS AND TREATY RIGHTS

Goal: The Inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights of First Nations in BC are recognized and affirmed in climate response.

Theme 1.1: The UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts

Objective 1.1.1: Prioritize the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the federal *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (collectively, the "UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts") at all levels of climate response.

Objective 1.1.2: Ensure all climate related legislation, policies, and mechanisms of implementation are aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.

ACTIONS

- a) Ensure clear paths to implement the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts in the climate context that involves:
 - Reviewing and reforming legislation, policies, and programs to remove barriers, impacts and limitations on the assertion and protection of First Nations' Title, Rights, Treaty Rights, and inherent jurisdiction in climate planning and response.
 - Developing a work and implementation plan with timelines, continued updates, milestones, and indicators of success.
 - Ensuring inclusion of consent-based decision-making, in line with FPIC.
 - Assessing how the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts can be used to assert Title and Rights in climate action.
 - Prioritizing climate change in implementation.
- b) Implement consent-based climate related decision-making in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent ("FPIC").

Theme 1.2: Self-Determination and Self-Government

Objective 1.2.1: Strengthen recognition and implementation of First Nations jurisdiction in climate planning and response and the inherent right to self-determine their own climate processes and responses.

Objective 1.2.2: Develop processes with transformed decision-making where First Nation governments are recognized and engaged with as governments in climate planning and response.

Objective 1.2.3: Revitalize and implement traditional laws and legal orders and processes within First Nations communities to guide climate change response.

Objective 1.2.4: Respect and support First Nations in developing, maintaining and implementing their own institutions, laws, governing bodies, and political, economic and social structures related to climate change.

ACTIONS

- a) Respect and recognize First Nations inherent jurisdiction to manage and care for their territories, resources, and economy, engaging with First Nations as inherent Title and Right holders through a government-to-government relationship.
- b) Ensure representation of First Nation communities at climate related discussion tables, including those related to the development of state-led climate legislation, policies and programs.
- c) Respect and support First Nations in developing and implementing their own laws and legal processes to guide land, water and resource management in their own self-determined and self-governed ways.
- d) Support First Nations in developing and implementing their own institutions, policies, programs and climate actions grounded in community laws and legal principles.
- e) Explore partnerships with education institutions and organizations to collaborate in the revitalization and use of First Nations' traditional laws and legal orders in the climate context.

Theme 1.3: Traditional Knowledge and Languages

Objective 1.3.1: Support the preservation and use of traditional knowledge and language within First Nation communities in BC as the foundation for building resilience and adapting to the climate crisis.

Objective 1.3.2: Connect traditional knowledge holders with First Nations youth and create opportunities for climate action collaboration.

ACTIONS

- a) Preserve traditional knowledge and language in a way that meets the need and priorities of each individual and distinct First Nation community.
- b) Support the use of traditional knowledge to guide land, water and resource management and to be applied in the climate context broadly.
- c) Foster the selection of oral narratives and teachings to draw out and uphold legal principles relating to the protection and care of the land, waters and environment.
- d) Support First Nations in the development and implementation of language policies, programs and strategies to inform climate action.
- e) Support opportunities for First Nations youth to participate in land-based learning initiatives.
- f) Increase representation of Elders and/or traditional knowledge holders in state-led climate initiatives.

PRIORITY #1: INHERENT TITLE, RIGHTS AND TREATY RIGHTS

Goal: The Inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights of First Nations in BC are recognized and affirmed in climate response.

- g) Support the adaptation of colonial climate terminology into more inclusive and traditional languages within First Nation communities

Theme 1.4: Crown Engagement and Collaboration

Objective 1.4.1: Ensure meaningful Crown engagement and collaboration with First Nations as inherent Title and Right holders at both the provincial and federal levels in climate planning and response.

Objective 1.4.2: Ensure provincial and federal governments comply with their obligations and responsibilities owed to First Nations when engaging in negotiations, consultations and climate related discussions.

Objective 1.4.3: Support First Nation capacity to meaningfully participate in engagement and consultation discussions.

ACTIONS

- a) Assess and reform current state led First Nation engagement and consultation frameworks. This includes identifying and addressing limitations within ministries that prevent First Nations from fully participating in climate related engagement processes and decision-making. Expected outcomes may include the development of tools for governments, such as a best practices and relevant guidelines.
- b) Recognize and respect First Nations self-determination and self-government throughout government-to-government climate related engagement and discussions in line with actions found in "Theme 1.2: Self-Determination and Self-Government".
- c) Secure representation and broad participation of First Nation communities in state-led climate related discussions and decision making.
- d) Engage with First Nations in the development and reform of all state-led climate legislation, policies, programs and initiatives, including those related to the environment, biodiversity, water and conservation work.
- e) Co-develop new climate related legislation, policies and programs with First Nation communities in all regions of the province.
- f) Practice inclusive and equitable engagement and collaboration with First Nations broadly to collect diverse perspectives and to highlight the respective needs, priorities and unique circumstances of distinct communities.
- g) Provide information and resources to First Nation communities well in advance of climate related engagement discussions, including negotiations and consultations.
- h) Ensure that relevant decision-makers with the respective authority to make decisions are at the table during discussions with First Nations.
- i) Improve inter-ministerial collaboration in government-led climate engagement processes with First Nations.

Theme 1.5: Public Knowledge

Objective 1.5.1: Enhance public knowledge and understanding of the societal, cultural and economic consequences of climate change impacts on First Nations.

Objective 1.5.2: Increase public understanding of the role of colonization and its laws such as the *Indian Act* in limiting and restricting First Nation ability to respond to climate change.

ACTIONS

- a) Identify curriculum reform recommendations at all levels to incorporate content relating to First Nations history, culture, Title and Rights, and how communities are impacted by the combination of colonization, climate change impacts and current climate responses.
- b) Develop education materials (i.e., pamphlets, webpages, reports, videos, etc.) for the public highlighting impacts and threats of climate change on First Nation communities.
- c) Improve public education regarding the principle of FPIC including public education of the rationale behind FPIC, the content of FPIC, and the difference between FPIC and a "veto".
- d) Build competence and understanding within the government, corporations and their respective institutions relating to First Nations Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.
- e) Encourage and create space where communities may safely and comfortably invite non-Indigenous peoples to tables to discuss and share First Nation priorities, challenges, and responses in the climate context.

PRIORITY #2: CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

Goal: First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.

Theme 2.1: Education and Training

Objective 2.1.1: Strengthen knowledge and awareness within First Nation communities relating to climate change, including climate impacts, sources, and mitigation and adaptation response.

Objective 2.1.2: Strengthen climate related training and skills development for First Nations both on and off reserve to participate in opportunities arising from the transition to a low-carbon society, while also reducing reliance on high-priced consultants.

Objective 2.1.3: Develop opportunities for First Nations to hold culturally appropriate and climate related certifications and credentials.

Objective 2.1.4: Effectively establish and fulfil climate related positions and advocacy roles within First Nation communities.

ACTIONS

- a) Support First Nations in developing and participating in community-based climate education programs, including those grounded in land-based learning, to better understand climate change impacts, sources, and responses within First Nation communities.
- b) Support First Nations in developing climate related educational materials (i.e., pamphlets, webpages, reports, videos, etc.) which may be grounded on First Nations' knowledge systems and community-specific priorities.
- c) Enhance knowledge within First Nation communities relating to:
 - Climate change, including its sources and impacts.
 - Mitigation and adaptation response.
 - Energy efficacy, including renewable and clean energy alternatives.
- d) Support the development of and enhance First Nation participation in community-based and culturally appropriate climate educational programs.
- e) Facilitate intergenerational climate discussions and information sharing within and between First Nation communities.
- f) Enhance skills within First Nation communities relating to the development, management and delivery of climate related policies and projects, including the drafting of funding applications and project proposals and the generation and assessment of climate data.
- g) Support First Nations in accessing and enrolling in climate related certification programs and explore opportunities to provide subsidies to cover certifications costs.
- h) Explore collaboration opportunities with institutions and/or organizations that have the services to assist in training, certification and hiring for roles related to climate mitigation and adaptation.
- i) Support First Nations in establishing and fulfilling climate related positions within their communities, such as climate champions, climate coordinators, and/or community energy coaches.
- j) Support the development of a First Nations Climate Change Competency Toolkit that contains roles, skills and training required to build capacity and implement community priorities for climate change.
- k) Explore partnerships with other First Nation communities to assist with training and skills development related to climate mitigation and adaptation activities.

Theme 2.2: Long Term Funding

Objective 2.2.1: Ensure First Nation communities obtain the financial resources needed to build climate capacity and develop their own self-determined climate responses.

Objective 2.2.2: Improve both provincial and federal funding frameworks and programs to reflect First Nation priorities on climate change.

Objective 2.2.3: Ensure adequate government support for First Nations with their applications for climate related funding.

ACTIONS

- a) Immediately create a First Nations Climate Fund, with an initial investment of \$1 billion to ensure long-term support and financial allocation for community-led climate initiatives grounded in First Nation needs and priorities.
- b) Ensure a portion of funds collected through government environmental taxes, levies and/or fees go directly to First Nations communities through the established First Nations Climate Fund.
- c) Create an online funding hub for First Nations to have direct access to climate related funding opportunities across governments and agencies.
- d) Increase long-term government climate investments targeted to First Nations in BC for mitigation and adaptation actions grounded in First Nation needs and priorities.
- e) Widen provincial and federal funding and grant programs to ensure First Nations can apply and access adequate financial supports and services.

PRIORITY #2: CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

Goal: First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.

- f) Ensure that governments review and revise the current provincial and federal funding frameworks, in collaboration with First Nations in BC, to:
 - Identify and close gaps which limit equitable First Nation accessibility to funding, both on and off reserve.
 - Allow greater flexibility for spending based on community specific needs.
 - Meaningfully consider community and local knowledge as part of application materials.
 - Effectively and continuously communicate funding timelines and deadlines while also sharing relevant funding information to First Nation communities broadly.
- g) Ensure that governments provide direct assistance to First Nations with their applications for climate-related funding, such as establishing First Nation Funding Coach positions and expanding Clean BC's Community Energy Coach program

Theme 2.3: Data Governance

Objective 2.3.1: Strengthen First Nation data governance and support First Nations in creating, managing and accessing climate data and information to inform decision-making and climate response.

Objective 2.3.2: Ensure First Nation communities can effectively assess climate data and information held by other governments, institutions and/or organizations.

Objective 2.3.3: Engage in respectful and reciprocal generation and sharing of climate data and information with First Nations.

ACTIONS

- a) Support First Nations in developing and implementing data governance frameworks, including protocols to collect, store and use data collected.
- b) Support First Nations in generating their own climate data to establish their own baseline for climate monitoring programs and indicators to assess effectiveness of climate responses.
- c) Assess challenges and develop solutions relating to the accessibility of climate data and information within First Nation communities and develop appropriate responses. This includes assessing the connectivity and IT resources currently in place within First Nation communities.
- d) Develop and implement broad data and information sharing protocols following OCAP principles.
- e) Create space for First Nations to come together to share climate related data, resources, templates and information with one another.
- f) Explore partnerships with the BC [First Nations Data Governance Initiative](#) and the [First Nations Information Governance Centre](#) to develop and implement data governance frameworks within communities.

Theme 2.4: Gender Equity and Inclusion

Objective 2.4.1: Implement the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the Calls for Justice in climate action.

Objective 2.4.2: Recognize the impacts of colonization on First Nations' women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and strengthen recognition and respect of their right to culture, health, security and justice in climate planning.

Objective 2.4.3: Remove barriers, such as sexual and gender norms grounded on colonial ideals, experienced by First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples throughout climate action.

ACTIONS

- a) Increase representation of First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples within climate-related discussions and related decision-making, this includes providing support for meaningful participation.
- b) Develop a report that uses a culturally relevant Gender-Based Analysis Plus approach to inform how climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized First Nations populations including evaluating the intersectional identity, psycho-bio-neurophysiological and socio-economic factors.
- c) Implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls so that First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people enjoy equal protection against all forms of discrimination in climate planning and response. This includes equal access to:
 - Climate related education, training, and employment in line with actions found at "Theme 2.1: Education and Training".
 - Health, safety and wellness, in line with actions found at "Theme 4.6: Community Health and Wellness"

PRIORITY #2: CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

Goal: First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.

- Engagement and collaboration opportunities in climate planning and response, in line with actions found within “Priority #1: Inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights”.
- d) Apply a distinctions-based approach and an intersectional lens to climate planning and response, recognizing and accounting for distinct lived experience between First Nation communities and individuals.
- e) Review and reform all provincial and federal climate related policies and programs to ensure they are gender-inclusive, non-binary and that they recognize and value the knowledge and ways of knowing of First Nations women and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples.

Theme 2.5: Commitment to Youth

Objective 2.5.1: Increase opportunities for First Nations youth to take on climate advocacy and leadership positions both within and outside of their communities.

Objective 2.5.2: Create inclusive and culturally appropriate spaces for First Nations youth, including 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, to participate in climate discussions and response and support the implementation of any outcomes.

ACTIONS

- a) Establish training opportunities for youth to empower, develop and implement climate advocacy actions. This may include those relating to strategic communications, fundraising and campaigning, public speaking, and data collection.
- b) Support internal and external mentorship programs between youth and Indigenous climate leaders, Elders and/or traditional knowledge holders, land and water protectors, academics and organizations.
- c) Provide support for youth-led climate initiatives and collaboration opportunities with other First Nations and Indigenous groups broadly.
- d) Support youth climate discussions with appropriate community members and cultural support.
- e) Assess and reduce systemic barriers that First Nations youth, including 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, face in participating in climate discussions and response.
- f) Support the development of community-led climate related programs specifically for First Nations youth both on and off reserve.
- g) Ensure long-term and stable financial support for youth, including access to education and educational resources.
- h) Facilitate engagement with First Nations youth when developing and conducting climate work at the community, provincial and federal levels.

PRIORITY #3: LAND AND WATER PROTECTION AND STABILITY

Goal: The health and stability of the land and waters, including resources, non-human beings and habitats are resilient to climate impacts now and for future generations to come.

Theme 3.1: Restoration and Conservation

Objective 3.1.1: Restore the lands and waters, including native plants and medicines, disturbed as a result of climate change and/or urban and industrial development.

Objective 3.1.2: Strengthen conservation efforts in order to preserve and protect ecosystems and wildlife while also adapting to climate impacts.

Objective 3.1.3 Recognize the crucial and unique role of First Nations in protecting, maintaining and managing the environment, including ecosystem functions and biodiversity.

ACTIONS

- a) Prioritize site restoration and protection in areas disturbed as a result of urban and industrial development as a component of climate action plans and cultural revitalization.
- b) Enhance policies enforcing cleanup and remediation of lands disturbed by industrial development, agriculture, urban growth, and climate impacts, and enhance accountability measures.
- c) Facilitate forest regrowth, stop old-growth harvesting, and improve protections for habitats and ecosystem services.
- d) Support the development and implementation of a First Nations Renewed Old-growth Strategy and implement BC's Old Growth Strategic Review Panel's report recommendations.
- e) Prioritize the development of First Nations Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas ("IPCAs") across the province as a measure to meet and exceed Canada's conservation land and ocean targets, which includes the increment of dedicated funding and support to First Nations broadly.
- f) Support implementation of First Nation developed wildlife and conservation plans and nature-based solutions projects that enhance conservation and restoration goals.
- g) Develop and deliver materials, resources and projects to amplify First Nation voices and to increase public education and awareness on the essential and unique role that First Nations play in restoring and conserving biodiversity.

Theme 3.2: Waters and Oceans

Objective 3.2.1: Ensure respect and recognition of First Nation water governance and authority to manage traditional water sources.

Objective 3.2.2: Restore natural water ecosystems (marine ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems) and enhance water management policies and practices to safeguard water quality and quantity now and in the future.

ACTIONS

- a) Support the revision and update of the First Nations Water Rights Strategy to advance First Nations jurisdictional water rights in BC.
- b) Strengthen provincial and federal legislation to protect, restore and enhance the state of the waters and oceans from the effects of global warming and human activities.
- c) Update or develop provincial water management policies or plans to respond to climate related stressors to the hydrologic cycle, aquatic ecosystems and watersheds.
- d) Support First Nations communities in the development and implementation of water stewardship plans which include a climate change analysis and response.
- e) Co-develop the Watershed Security Strategy in full partnership with First Nations in BC with actions to help improve marine resiliency and to ensure a healthy state for the oceans and watersheds across the province.
- f) Expand community-based climate and water monitoring programs to establish baseline data and track climate variability and other impacts from global warming on freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- g) Build and upgrade water treatment facilities, as well as improve water treatment methods, to prevent water and ocean pollution from urban zones and industry.
- h) Support First Nations in implementing their own self-determined nature-based solutions for ocean restoration and coastal protection.
- i) Respect and recognize the rights of nature and explore opportunities to advocate for and uphold legal personhood rights of the waters.

Theme 3.3: Food Security and Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems

ACTIONS

PRIORITY #3: LAND AND WATER PROTECTION AND STABILITY

Goal: The health and stability of the land and waters, including resources, non-human beings and habitats are resilient to climate impacts now and for future generations to come.

Objective 3.3.1: Strengthen food and seafood security for First Nations through the recognition and support of traditional food systems which are also sustainable and low carbon.

Objective 3.3.2: Support First Nations in creating and enhancing mechanisms to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change on traditional food and seafood sources.

Objective 3.3.3: Reduce poverty through effective and innovative food security initiatives.

Objective 3.3.4: Support innovative solutions to secure food self-sufficiency for First Nation communities, especially those in colder climates with short outdoor growing seasons

- a) Recognize and support First Nations' right to define, use and manage their own food systems, including harvesting and gathering processes and markets.
- b) Support First Nations in developing long-term strategies, policies and implementation tools focused on enhancing community-led food and food sovereignty systems. This includes supporting equitable access to traditional foods, responding to low populations of harvested species, and encouraging local food sources to reduce GHG emissions.
- c) Advance the development and implementation of a BC Wild Pacific Salmon Strategy with a focus on items related to climate impacts on food security.
- d) Protect and restore ecosystems and natural habitats impacted by climate change to sustain traditional food and seafood systems.
- e) Consult with Elders and/or traditional knowledge holders to determine effective and appropriate approaches to protecting and restoring food security.
- f) Support innovative ways to ensure that Elders and other community members who may be in need have access to healthy foods, such as traditional foods and fresh food, i.e., community gardens.
- g) Support the development of comprehensive educational initiatives related to the importance of restoring and maintaining traditional food systems and sustainable low-carbon food systems to combat climate change.
- h) Support First Nations in developing appropriate and local food waste management mechanisms to help reduce GHG emissions as well as ecological footprints.
- i) Support First Nation-led research to assess impacts of climate change, including global warming, on ecosystems and natural habitats that support the production and use of food, seafood, and medicines within communities.
- j) Facilitate and support collaborative discussions and opportunities within and between First Nation communities and other Indigenous groups at all levels to combat food insecurity.

Theme 3.4: Urban and Industrial Development Processes

Objective 3.4.1: Support the development of practices and transformed decision-making which recognizes and respects First Nations jurisdiction throughout urban and industrial development processes.

Objective 3.4.2: Recognize and respect First Nations jurisdiction as part of urban and industrial project approval and associated decision-making in environmental assessment processes and certification.

Objective 3.4.3: Implement a consent-based approach in line with the minimum standard of FPIC.

Objective 3.4.4: Strengthen collaboration in true partnership between proponents and First Nations communities for climate initiatives, proposed development, and resource management.

ACTIONS

- a) Review and reform legislation, policies and guidelines, aligned with actions found at "Theme 1.1: UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts" and Theme: 1.2: Self-Determination and Self-Government" to ensure:
 - Project proponents continuously obtain FPIC from all First Nation communities potentially impacted by a proposed project.
 - FPIC is fully informed, and First Nations have the capacity to respond to third-party proposals and project development.
 - Transparency and honest representation of all impacts of a proposed project, including those that are compounded by or a result of climate change.
 - Early and ongoing engagement throughout the entire timeline of a project ensuring relevant information is shared in a timely manner between partners.
 - Early and sufficient notice is provided for First Nations to review data and information received and to conduct assessments and research of their own.
 - Independent data collection and assessment during both project review and compliance monitoring.
 - Appropriate integration of First Nation laws and local climate knowledge into project work, including permitting and decision-making.
- b) Enhance First Nations' capacity to conduct environmental assessments and/or to meaningfully participate in environmental assessments

PRIORITY #3: LAND AND WATER PROTECTION AND STABILITY

Goal: The health and stability of the land and waters, including resources, non-human beings and habitats are resilient to climate impacts now and for future generations to come.

processes and ensure respect for their knowledge and jurisdiction in the process and subsequent decision-making.

- c) Recognize and respect First Nations authority to manage and use their traditional lands and resources throughout Impact Benefit Agreements ("IBAs") in line with actions found at "Theme 1.1: UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts and Theme 1.2: Self-Determination and Self-Government".

Theme 3.5: Resource Management

Objective 3.5.1: Support First Nations in developing and maintaining laws, policies, and guidelines for land, water and resource management to use within and between their territories.

Objective 3.5.2: Support First Nations compliance and enforcement systems to promote respect for and compliance with their laws, policies, plans and guidelines.

Objective 3.5.3: Increase communications between the provincial and federal governments and First Nation communities in state-led resource management processes and decision-making.

ACTIONS

- a) Respect and recognize First Nations inherent jurisdiction to access, use and manage traditional land, water and food resources within their territories in line with actions found at "Theme: 1.2: Self-Determination and Self-Government".
- b) Support the development and compliance of community-led land use and resource management plans.
- c) Identify and integrate alternatives to contemporary resource management in line with traditional First Nation systems and governance.
- d) Support the development and implementation of First Nation compliance and enforcement systems such as Guardian Watchman and other guardianship programs.
- e) Explore the development or reform of First Nation licensing and tenure systems as an option to implement resource management regimes in First Nations territories, e.g., forest licences, carbon licences, etc.
- f) Increase collaboration and consultation with First Nations in government and non-First Nation-led resource management systems and decision-making, including those relating to provincial and federal forestry, fishing and mining licensing processes, laws and regulations.

Theme 3.6: Collective Stewardship

Objective 3.6.1: Strengthen collaboration, partnership and information sharing within and between First Nation communities, organizations and potential partners to collectively care for the Earth and build climate leadership and resiliency.

ACTIONS

- a) Support initiatives and networks that promote and enhance local and regional collaboration between First Nations on climate issues and that protect lands and water for future generations.
- b) Support research and raise awareness about nature-based solutions as an opportunity for First Nations to address climate change while protecting their lands, waters, and air.
- c) Establish a regional network of climate action coordinators who can provide mutual support between First Nations, and who could help develop regional and provincial climate alliances.
- d) Support partnerships, networks and allyships to exchange knowledge, experiences and undertake climate action, both between First Nations and other potential partners.
- e) Increase number of university/college partnerships with First Nations following OCAP principles and the self-determined priorities of communities.
- f) Explore international collaboration and networks with Indigenous peoples across the world to share experiences and advocate for the recognition of their inherent rights in global climate response.

PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Goal: First Nations in BC work to keep global warming below 1.5oC while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community specific priorities.

Theme 4.1: Green Infrastructure and Transportation

Objective 4.1.1: Establish appropriate infrastructure within First Nation communities to protect community and ecosystem health, reduce GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, and adapt to current and projected climate impacts.

Objective 4.1.2: Ensure reliable and affordable low-carbon and active transportation within and between communities for First Nations.

Objective 4.1.3: Support First Nations in reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

ACTIONS

- a) Conduct regional assessments relating to infrastructure needs, including those relating to transportation networks, communication networks, emergency response, and climate data management, for First Nations communities across the province.
- b) Conduct a comprehensive review to identify gaps in current provincial and federal policies and programs relating to low-carbon transportation and active transportation projects . Develop reform recommendations and actions to support the needs and priorities of First Nations both on and off reserve. This work may include a review of:
 - First Nation awareness and education on government projects.
 - Reliable transportation networks for communities, particularly for those in northern and remote communities.
 - Clean mobility options for First Nation communities and vulnerable peoples.
 - Opportunities to use electric vehicle fleets within First Nation communities.
 - Charging/hydrogen fueling infrastructure development opportunities and rebates.
 - Transitioning into clean and low-carbon fuel resource opportunities, including hydrogen and biofuels.
 - Accessibility to public transportation for First Nations, including those living off reserve.
- c) Support, both technically and financially, First Nations in developing and operating their own infrastructure management plans and systems to effectively respond to current and projected climate impacts, including energy-efficiency strategies and plans.
- d) Support the development of infrastructure related training opportunities within First Nations communities in line with actions found at “Theme 2.1: Education and Training”.

Theme 4.2: Housing and Buildings

Objective 4.2.1: Ensure that housing and buildings within First Nation communities are culturally appropriate, energy efficient, and resilient to climate change.

Objective 4.2.2: Address the systemic inequity of housing security for First Nations both on and off reserve as a component of building resiliency and adaptation to climate change.

Objective 4.2.3: Strengthen provincial and federal government funding opportunities and incentives for First Nations both on and off reserve in the housing context.

ACTIONS

- a) Support First Nations in developing and implementing their own housing security and energy-efficiency housing and building strategies and plans to respond to their specific needs and priorities.
- b) Explore and ensure adequate housing programs available for Elders and/or vulnerable members of First Nation communities.
- c) Develop an infrastructure funding framework, aligned with actions found at “Theme 2.2: Funding”, to support First Nation capacity to undertake culturally appropriate and energy-efficient housing and building initiatives.
- d) Explore opportunities for the creation of a First Nations Energy Efficient Homes Certification Program to incorporate traditional knowledge into building design and construction.
- e) Increase support for First Nations off-grid with sustainable and affordable options to access clean energy sources and reduce home energy costs.
- f) Support the development of “passive homes” to minimize residential demand for energy and to incorporate traditional housing elements into building designs.
- g) Explore the development of a First Nation Building Code to provide a framework for communities on how the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings can comply with energy-efficiency objectives.
- h) Support the development of education and awareness programs to educate First Nations on energy-efficient benefits and home

PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Goal: First Nations in BC work to keep global warming below 1.5oC while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community specific priorities.

maintenance, aligned with actions found at “Theme 2.2: Education and Training”.

- i) Support capacity building within First Nation communities to build and manage their own homes and buildings in their own self-determined ways. This may involve:
 - Strengthening training opportunities for First Nations on housing and energy-efficient design, construction and maintenance, materials and technologies, building inspection, energy advising, and other areas related to housing development and procurement.
 - Partnering with other communities, organizations, and academia to develop region-specific training programs for First Nations.
 - Supporting networking efforts between First Nation communities to share successful experiences and learn from one another.
 - Strengthening the capacity of the First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council and the Housing & Infrastructure Authority for First Nations in BC once established.
- j) Enhance communications between the provincial and federal governments as well as internal ministries and departments involved in First Nations housing and energy-efficiency.

Theme 4.3: Emergency Response

Objective 4.3.1: Effectively respond to climate related emergencies and associated risks and impacts on First Nation communities broadly.

Objective 4.3.2: Strengthen First Nation-led emergency management and preparedness, including risk reduction, to effectively respond to climate related disasters and emergencies.

Objective 4.3.3: Ensure each individual and distinct First Nation community is prepared and empowered to respond to climate related impacts, risks and emergencies.

Objective 4.3.4: Integrate emergency management planning into climate change response by merging disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation actions at the provincial, federal and community levels.

ACTIONS

- a) Support the actions undertaken by the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Emergency Services Society to implement the Tripartite Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and establish a collective process to create partnerships and enhance First Nation emergency strategic response, capacity and management.
- b) Support the development of a BC First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction which:
 - Aligns with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction and the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.
 - Ensures emergency management planning incorporates First Nations’ traditional knowledge and recognizes and upholds the inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights of First Nations in BC.
 - Implements recommendations relating to provincial wildfires as found in Trial by Fire: Nadleh Whut'en and the Shovel Lake Fire Report, Fires Awakened Us Report by the Tsilhqot'in Nation and the Abbott-Chapman Report.
- c) Support and secure long-term investments so that First Nations can develop their own self-determined and lasting emergency management strategies, plans and systems, including those relating to flood, draught and wildfire assessments, as well as updated mapping systems and data.
- d) Explore collaborative opportunities with relevant partners, including the provincial and federal governments and the First Nations Emergency Services Society, to implement nature-based solutions for flood management as well as traditional and prescribed burning practices to mitigate wildfire disasters.
- e) Support First Nations in conducting their own research to assess and better understand the interactions between climate change and local hazards to inform decision-making on climate adaptation response.
- f) Assess and reform all emergency management policies and legislation and ensure alignment with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts in line with actions found at “Theme 1.1: UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts”.

PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Goal: First Nations in BC work to keep global warming below 1.5oC while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community specific priorities.

Theme 4.4: Climate Plans, Monitoring and Risk Assessments

Objective 4.4.1: Ensure First Nation communities are equipped and informed through the development of their own climate strategies and action plans.

Objective 4.4.2: Recognize First Nation authority to conduct climate related assessments and monitoring work in their own self-determined ways to inform climate response and planning

ACTIONS

- a) Support First Nations in the development of their own climate strategies and action plans at the community and regional levels based on their own self-determined climate needs and priorities. This may include strategies and plans relating to adaptation and mitigation, emergency response, energy, net-zero emissions, etc.
- b) Support First Nations in the development of their own risk assessments at the community and regional levels which includes an assessment of cumulative effects on the environment as well as on First Nations culture, heritage and Title and Rights.
- c) Implement First Nation-led monitoring and data collection frameworks to establish robust baseline data on climate, environmental, social, cultural and economic factors to inform climate response. This includes mapping of cultural heritage sites.
- d) Support First Nations in developing appropriate and effective strategies to mitigate or avoid climate related impacts to cultural rights and heritage sites and objects.

Theme 4.5: GHG Emissions Reduction

Objective 4.5.1: Meet and exceed provincial and federal climate targets to align with the IPCC's recommendation to limit global warming to 1.5oC.

Objective 4.5.2: Support First Nations to use nature-based solutions that align with their own self-determined priorities and values to help reduce GHG emissions in their territories.

Objective 4.5.3: Strengthen collaboration and partnerships between First Nations, governments, corporations, institutions, and organizations to reduce global GHG emissions and carbon pollution.

ACTIONS

- a) Advocate for provincial and federal governments to urgently strengthen climate response and meet the IPCC's recommendation to limit global warming to 1.5oC. This includes advocating for the complete phase out of subsidies for oil and gas and other emissions-intensive industries.
- b) Ensure provincial and federal governments develop and commit to actions relating to large-scale GHG emission reduction, from wildfires.
- c) Support First Nations in assessing, quantifying and reducing their GHG emissions to inform decision-making, to develop offset and/or mitigation measures, and to explore economic investments.
- d) Support First Nations in developing and leading nature-based solutions in their territories to help reduce GHG emissions and address climate change impacts. This can include projects relating to land-based and ocean-based carbon offsets, conservation and carbon offsets (IPCA's), coastal and marine ecosystem management, etc.
- e) Review and reform legislation, regulations, policies and programs, in line with actions found at "Theme 1.1: UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts", at the provincial, federal and international levels to remove restrictions on First Nations' authority to pursue land-based carbon offsets and conservation projects within their territories.
- f) Strengthen First Nation leadership and decision-making in existing and emerging carbon markets, including the context of carbon trading, in a manner that recognizes and respects their inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.
- g) Support First Nations in asserting their inherent jurisdiction to carbon rights and the right to hold productive capacity within their territories.
- h) Link economic reconciliation directly to an elevated role for First Nations in carbon markets and carbon rights.
- i) Partner with local governments, institutions and/or organizations to explore and assess mitigation opportunities for communities, such as Negative Emissions Technology.

Theme 4.6: Clean Energy Development

Objective 4.6.1: Support First Nations participation and ownership in the generation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy, including through

ACTIONS

- a) Explore opportunities for First Nations to participate in the generation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy and the management over their own utilities.

PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Goal: First Nations in BC work to keep global warming below 1.5oC while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community specific priorities.

collaboration and partnerships between First Nations, governments, industry, institutions and organizations.

Objective 4.6.2: Facilitate First Nation energy independence, including having energy security, while building sustainable economies in First Nations communities.

Objective 4.6.3: Reduce energy poverty in First Nations where there is limited access to affordable and consistent energy sources.

- b) Restore the ability for First Nations to generate revenue from selling electricity through Independent Power Agreements and/or other alternatives that allow for economic opportunities related to clean energy.
- c) Work to diversify energy sources available to First Nations to support energy independence and increase community resilience.
- d) Increase funding opportunities and access to investment, in line with actions found at "Theme 2.2: Funding", for First Nation-led clean energy projects focused on reducing GHG emissions.
- e) Conduct research on clean energy development within First Nation communities, including opportunities and impacts associated with the shift to clean and low carbon fuel sources such as hydrogen and biofuels.
- f) Create space for dialogue on clean energy alternatives to diesel, oil and gas and facilitate discussions to better align federal and provincial policies with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts while also respecting the protection and assertion of First Nations' Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.
- g) Immediately assist First Nations communities that rely on diesel energy to transition toward clean energy alternatives, respecting First Nations' right to self-determination and self-governance and recognizing communities may undertake the transition in line with their own processes and institutions.
- h) Review and reform all provincial and federal clean energy policies and programs to ensure accessibility and equitable opportunities for First Nations.
- i) Improve support for First Nations through government action and investment in off-grid clean energy sources for First Nations.
- j) Support education and awareness programs to educate and train First Nations in clean energy alternatives and development.

Theme 4.7: Community Health and Wellness

Objective 4.7.1: Understand the impacts of climate change on First Nation health and wellness and develop appropriate responses to ensure long-term First Nation community health and wellness to facilitate resiliency in the face of climate change.

ACTIONS

- a) Immediately ensure that all First Nations in BC have long-term and reliable access to safe drinking water.
- b) Increase efforts to understand the impacts of climate change on First Nations health in communities through the development of Nation-led research.
- c) Prepare regional assessments to identify existing gaps in infrastructure on reserve that are critical to protect First Nations health and wellness during extreme weather conditions and to adapt to foreseeable climate impacts. Assessed infrastructure should include, but is not limited to:
 - Drinking water treatment, storage facilities and distribution systems.
 - Water withdrawal systems.
 - Hazardous waste handling and storage.
 - Waste disposal and recycling.
 - Roads and bridges, particularly for communities with one access road.
 - Communication networks for virtual work and emergency response
 - Homes, community buildings, schools, health centres, especially for Elders, youth and high-risk community members.
- d) Ensure both First Nation and non-First Nation health agencies to undertake culturally appropriate, periodic climate change and health assessment in communities to inform climate adaptation response.

PRIORITY #4: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Goal: First Nations in BC work to keep global warming below 1.5oC while also effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts through the development of their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community specific priorities.

- e) Support the development of First Nation health and wellness indicators at the community level.
- f) Support First Nations in developing and establishing culturally appropriate community wellness centres and programs to provide services for members incorporating traditional practices and medicines.

Theme 4.8: Just and Green Economy

Objective 4.8.1: Strengthen First Nation economic independence through the support and recognition of First Nation-led sustainable and low carbon economic development initiatives.

Objective 4.8.2: Ensure First Nations are included at all levels in opportunities arising from the transition to a low carbon economy.

Objective 4.8.3: Ensure recognition and implementation of the “economic component” of First Nations’ Title and facilitate equitable resource revenue sharing with First Nation communities.

ACTIONS

- a) Support First Nations in exploring and developing economic development projects and opportunities that are environmentally sustainable and low carbon.
- b) Support First Nations in implementing GHG emission standards, assessments and criteria at the community level to inform decision-making for economic development.
- c) Support First Nation investment in eco-tourism and land-based carbon offsets to build sustainable revenue streams for communities.
- d) Increase equity-financing for First Nation-led low-emissions economic development initiatives, with accessibility to First Nation entrepreneurs.
- e) Facilitate and ensure equitable resource revenue-sharing with First Nations broadly.
- f) Maximize participation in economic and work opportunities arising from the transition to a low-carbon society while also reducing reliance on high-priced consultants.
- g) Apply a First Nations lens to economic analysis and measurement, using holistic indicators relevant to communities.